



**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
PROBATION OVERSIGHT COMMISSION
STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR THE
VIRTUAL REGULAR MEETING**



poc.lacounty.gov

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2022, 12:00 P.M.

VIDEO FILE FOR THE ENTIRE MEETING

Attachment: [Video](#)

I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

1. Call to Order and Roll Call.

Chair Carrillo called the meeting to order at 12:01 p.m. Commissioner Milinda Kakani introduced herself, and Ms. Wendelyn Julien, Executive Director conducted the roll call:

Present: Commissioner Sean Garcia-Leys, Commissioner Milinda Kakani, Commissioner Donald D. Meredith, Secretary Dolores Canales, Vice Chair Esché L. Jackson, and Chair Franky Carrillo

Absent: Commissioner Danielle M. Dupuy, Commissioner Samuel Lewis, and Commissioner Dominique D. Nong

2. Approval of the November 14, 2022 and November 16, 2022 special meeting minutes.

No members of the public commented on this item.

On motion of Commissioner Canales, seconded by Commissioner Jackson, and unanimously carried (Commissioners Dupuy, Lewis, Meredith, and Nong being absent), the Los Angeles Probation Oversight Commission (POC) approved the November 14, 2022 and November 16, 2022 special meeting minutes:

Ayes: **5 –** Commissioner Sean Garcia-Leys, Commissioner Milinda Kakani, Secretary Dolores Canales, Vice Chair Esché L. Jackson, and Chair Franky Carrillo

Absent: **4 –** Commissioner Danielle M. Dupuy, Commissioner Samuel Lewis, Commissioner Donald D. Meredith, and Commissioner Dominique D. Nong

Attachments: [Approved November 14, 2022 Minutes](#)
[Approved November 16, 2022 Minutes](#)
Public Comment/Correspondence

3. Nominations for the positions of Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary of the Los Angeles County Probation Oversight Commission (POC).

Ms. Julien explained that officers are elected annually in January per the County

Ordinance and POC Bylaws. She opened the floor for Commissioner nominations for the positions of Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary and noted that an official vote will take place at the January 2023 meeting.

Commissioner Jackson inquired about having interim officers until the two At-Large Commissioner vacancies are filled.

In response to Commissioner Garcia-Leys' inquiry about the two vacancies being filled by January 2023, Ms. Julien shared that the priority application deadline is December 15th.

Chair Carrillo encouraged Commissioners to proceed with nominations at this meeting. Ms. Julien expressed that additional nominations can be made prior to the official vote at the January 2023 meeting.

In response to Commissioner Jackson's request for descriptions of the positions being provided prior to an official vote taking place for the officers, Ms. Julien explained the roles of all the officers

The nominations are as follows:

- Chair – Commissioner Jackson
- Vice Chair – Commissioner Kakani
- Secretary – Commissioner Garcia-Leys

No members of the public commented on this item.

Chair Carrillo proposed a motion to accept the nominations as presented for the positions of Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary.

On motion of Chair Carrillo, seconded by Commissioner Canales, unanimously carried (Commissioners Dupuy, Lewis, Meredith, and Nong being absent), the POC approved the motion to accept the nominations for the positions of Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary:

Ayes: 5 – Commissioner Sean Garcia-Leys, Commissioner Milinda Kakani, Secretary Dolores Canales, Vice Chair Esché L. Jackson, and Chair Franky Carrillo

Absent: 4 – Commissioner Danielle M. Dupuy, Commissioner Samuel Lewis, Commissioner Donald D. Meredith, and Commissioner Dominique D. Nong

Attachments: Supporting Document
Public Comment/Correspondence

II. DISCUSSIONS

4. Discuss and take appropriate action on the meeting frequency of the Los Angeles Probation Oversight Commission and plans to return to in-person meetings.

- Franky Carrillo, Commission Chair, Los Angeles Probation Oversight Commission

Chair Carrillo explained that the POC is governed by the Brown Act and is expected to return to in-person meetings when the governor’s emergency order that allow for virtual meetings expires.

Aditi Sherikar, Gregg Johnson, Kelsey White addressed the POC.

Ms. Julien expressed that the POC will be working towards hybrid meetings.

Each Commissioner expressed their opinions about meeting frequency and location.

Ms. Julien mentioned that there is flexibility in selecting the meeting location, and that the town halls can be either in-person or virtual.

Chair Carrillo proposed a motion, seconded by Commissioner Garcia-Leys, to continue having the regular POC meetings on the second and fourth Thursday of each month from 12:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted with town halls at least once a month.

On motion of Chair Carrillo, seconded by Commissioner Garcia-Leys, carried by the following vote (Commissioners Dupuy, Lewis, Meredith, and Nong being absent), the POC agreed to accept Option #1 as the POC’s regular meeting schedule, and the tentative town hall schedule:

Ayes:	4 –	Commissioner Sean Garcia-Leys, Commissioner Milinda Kakani, Secretary Dolores Canales, and Chair Franky Carrillo
Abstain:	1 –	Vice Chair Esché L. Jackson
Absent:	4 –	Commissioner Danielle M. Dupuy, Commissioner Samuel Lewis, Commissioner Donald D. Meredith, and Commissioner Dominique D. Nong

Attachments: [2023 POC Meeting Schedule](#)
Public Comment/Correspondence

5. Discuss and take appropriate action on a report from the Los Angeles County Office of Inspector General (OIG) on the movement of youth from Central Juvenile Hall (CJH).
 - Eric Bates, Assistant Inspector General, Los Angeles County Office of Inspector General

Mr. Max Huntsman, Inspector General for the Los Angeles County Office Inspector General gave a verbal report the Probation Department’s decision to move youth out of CJH to Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall (BJNJH) in March 2022 to avoid an inspection by the BSCC. He stated that the report is complete, but it is being fact-checked.

No members of the public commented on this item.

Mr. Huntsman explained that the OIG performed a statistical review of the increased

uses of force on staff and youth. He reiterated that the OIG does not have the staff capacity to perform individual investigations of incidents. Mr. Bates added that the report does not contain any issues related to new criminal petitions.

Ms. Julien inquired about how the Probation Department reports the incidents of violence and the severity of the incidents for the youth-on-youth incidents as well as the youth-on-staff incidents.

Commissioner Garcia-Leys mentioned that he would like more information included in the reports about the severity of violence in addition to the number of incidents, number of injuries, and incidents that involve repeated offenses by the same youth and staff members.

Mr. Huntsman recommended that an in-depth qualitative analysis be performed on a regular basis to identify ways to control the violence happening within the facilities.

Commissioner Kakani inquired about the number of petitions that were filed based on acts of violence during the move from CJH to BJNH and the specific units those petitions arose out of. Commissioner Kakani and Commissioner Garcia-Leys agreed to work on an information request related to this data.

Attachments: Supporting Document
Public Comment/Correspondence

6. Discuss and take appropriate action on progress the Los Angeles County Probation Department has made moving youth dispositioned to the secure track to Campus Kilpatrick and future plans for additional Secure Youth Treatment Facility (SYTF) sites.
 - Adam Bettino, Chief Deputy, Los Angeles County Probation Department
 - Wendelyn Julien, Executive Director, Los Angeles County Probation Oversight Commission

Mr. Bettino summarized the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council – Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grant (JJCC-JJRBG) Subcommittee meeting of December 7, 2022. He provided updates on a spending plan being created to align with the Department of Juvenile Justice's (DJJ's) Transition Plan. Mr. Bettino stated that the JJCC-JJRBG Subcommittee will share the final spending plan with the POC. He also mentioned that the JJCC-JJRBG Subcommittee is identifying long-term solutions for housing SYTF populations including consideration of additional facilities such as Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall. Mr. Bettino reported that the Probation Department will begin receiving DJJ youth as soon as February 2023.

Marsha McLean, Laurene Weste, Ms. Crayon, and Talibah Coffee addressed the POC.

In response to Chair Carrillo's inquiry, Mr. Bettino emphasized the consensus that stronger recommendations from the Subcommittee are needed to push forward. He stated that ongoing conversations are taking place with the Chief Executive Office (CEO) and the Probation Department's Employee Relations Unit to determine next steps to move forward with separating staffing issues from site locations.

Commissioner Kakani inquired about how the buckets on the spreadsheet were

prioritized, how the funding for the buckets (such as mentoring, coaching, and transitional planning) were determined, and what the guiding principles or values were when the buckets were prioritized. In response, Mr. Bettino clarified that the dollar amounts are speculative for the buckets, which are derived from the DJJ Transition Plan, to provide a youth development framework for the SYTF population.

Commissioner Kakani inquired about college courses being offered and if the programs the Probation Department is investing in will be evaluated and analyzed for effectiveness. Mr. Bettino mentioned that there is an existing Research Division, but a vendor will be hired to conduct program evaluations.

In response to Commissioner Kakani's inquiry about the number of staff designated to the SYTF population and training they receive, Mr. Bettino stated that the staff includes case managers, but he could not provide the exact number of staff. He explained that there is currently no specific training for employees working with the SYTF population because the training is still in the developmental phase.

Mr. Bettino agreed to provide the SYTF staffing numbers to the POC including the number of case managers working with SYTF youth, the number of Campus Kilpatrick staff designated to supervise SYTF youth currently, and the number of staff that would ideally be dedicated to the SYTF population at any given time.

Commissioner Meredith joined the meeting at 1:28 p.m.

Chair Carrillo expressed frustrations with policy in general, but specifically the non-existence of a policy for employees working with the SYTF population. Mr. Bettino emphasized that there are two manuals, one for the Detention Services Bureau (DSB) and one for the Residential Treatment Services Bureau (RTSB), that govern practice in all juvenile halls and camps, and are following Title 15 requirements but that a specific SYTF manual has not been adopted.

Commissioner Garcia-Leys inquired about the number of beds at Campus Kilpatrick, sleeping arrangements for staff on the 56-hour work schedule, and what is changing to house 48 youth at Campus Kilpatrick. Mr. Bettino confirmed that the beds that were removed from the cottages will likely not be returned, but instead that one of the cottages being used for other purposes will be used for housing. He indicated that Camp Miller is being renovated to house staff and provide additional recreational and programming space for youth at Campus Kilpatrick.

In response to Commissioner Garcia-Leys' inquiry about Los Padrinos having ample space for programming, Mr. Bettino mentioned that the space limitations are within the living units themselves. He added that the two new buildings have enough space in the living units for programming, but the old buildings do not. Mr. Bettino explained that programming in the living spaces is limited and is a concern across the facilities.

Chair Carrillo inquired about the possibility of BJNJH being a permanent site to house youth on the secure track. Mr. Bettino clarified that the possibility of BJNJH as a permanent SYTF site was voted down by the Board of Supervisors (Board) in March 2022. However, he shared that all facilities are now being analyzed to determine their viability to house the SYTF population, and those new recommendations will be made

to the Board by the JJCC-JJRBG Subcommittee.

In response to Commissioner Meredith's inquiry about when the Probation Department knew the DJJ youth were being transferred to Los Angeles County, Mr. Bettino clarified that they have known since 2020. He emphasized the need for the Probation Department to have a structured programming plan for SYTF population.

Attachments:

[Public Comment/Correspondence](#)

By Common Consent, there being no objection (Commissioners Dupuy, Lewis, and Nong being absent), the POC recessed at 1:55 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 2:10 p.m.

7. Discuss and take possible action on the hiring freeze placed on juvenile supervision positions within the Los Angeles County Probation Department by the Los Angeles County Chief Executive Office (CEO).

Ms. Julien provided background on the hiring freeze and explained that Probation is able to fill 150 positions that have already been approved by the CEO. She shared that there is long-term question about the hiring freeze and implications on recruiting and hiring.

Mr. Bettino stated that the decision regarding the hiring freeze will go before the Board on January 24, 2023. He mentioned that the Probation Department has fifteen recruits who are currently shadowing at CJH and BJNJH and will return to the classroom for the remainder of their training before graduation. Mr. Bettino shared that an additional twenty recruits are expected to begin the academy in January 2023. He added that a mentorship program pairing a veteran employee with a new employee is underway.

Ms. Julien explained that the CEO is conducting a right-sizing study to address the challenges of retention, staffing ratios, among other issues. She added that the decision of the Board to lift the hiring freeze was continued to the January 2023 meeting, where further discussion will take place, including freezing a fixed dollar amount of Probation's budget if the hiring freeze is lifted.

No members of the public commented on this item.

Commissioner Jackson inquired about the Probation Department's retention strategies. Mr. Bettino stated that the Probation Department is considering consultants to address the myriad of culture, climate, recruitment, retention, and strategic communication challenges.

Commission Jackson inquired about actions the Probation Department has taken to promote staff wellness. Mr. Bettino shared that there are peer support groups, training on vicarious trauma, wellness teams, psychological services, support services, and incentives, but additional options are being explored for expansion.

In response to Commissioner Jackson's inquiry about an on-site employee wellness

center, Mr. Bettino stated that this is in progress.

Commissioner Jackson expressed interest in whether the Probation Department is exploring short-term solutions to the staffing issue. Mr. Bettino mentioned that the Probation Department is ramping up the Credible Messenger Program in collaboration with the Department of Youth Development (DYD) to expand support and services to the youth. He highlighted that the Probation Department has lost more than 150 employees since January 2022 due to attrition.

Commissioner Meredith inquired about the number of employees who have been hired as Detention Service Officers (DSO's) in last two years, how many are still with the agency, how many have left, and the reasons for their departures from the Probation Department.

Commissioner Meredith expressed the need to have policies, guidelines, and adequate resources to address behavior so the safety concerns can be mitigated. He requested that the Probation Department create a plan to address ongoing safety concerns to keep youth safe from themselves and keep staff safe.

Chair Carrillo inquired about the number of applications the Probation Department receives monthly. Mr. Bettino stated that he can gather this data and provide it to the POC.

Commissioner Meredith expressed his sentiments about the staff and employees of the Probation Department, uplifting their hard work and commitment to make a difference with both the juveniles and the adults.

Commissioner Jackson inquired about line staff being involved in any committees or planning when addressing issues that arise within the Probation Department. Mr. Bettino stated that much of the conversations with the line staff are communicated through labor. Commissioner Jackson emphasized that the line staffs perspective is not being included enough when addressing issues within the Probation Department.

Attachments: [Supporting Document](#)
[Public Comment/Correspondence](#)

III. REPORTS

8. Discuss and take possible action on the Executive Director's report on the Probation Oversight Commission's progress towards completing the strategic goals outlined in the 2022 Strategic Operating Plan and plans for upcoming calendar year 2023. This month's report will include updates on OC Spray deployments, the launching of the POC's data dashboard, progress on sexual misconduct hearings, and POC inspections.
 - Wendelyn Julien, Executive Director, Los Angeles County Probation Oversight Commission

Ms. Julien expressed gratitude to the employees of the Probation Department who have attended the last two closed town hall meetings and Probation's leadership team for their support.

To measure the POC's benchmarks and measurements about success, Ms. Julien mentioned that the POC is searching for a strategic planning consultant.

Ms. Julien reported that there has been an update to the POC's OC Spray Deployment Summary which shows a decline of about 50% in the number of OC Spray deployments in November 2022.

The POC will be publishing a user-friendly, public-facing data dashboard early in 2023 that will be updated regularly with various statistics such as facility populations and OC Spray deployments.

Ms. Julien shared that the 2022 inspections of all the camps and halls have been completed. The reports on Camps Rockey, Afflerbaugh, and Paige are attached, and staff are finalizing the reports for Campus Kilpatrick, BJNJH, and CJH. She explained that the annual inspection report will be submitted to the Probation Department, the BSCC, and the Board in January 2023.

Updates for the Sexual Misconduct Ad Hoc Committee were shared by Ms. Julien and Commissioner Jackson. The POC will be moving forward with hosting special hearings, and discussion on next steps is underway. Commissioner Jackson highlighted that the aim of holding the special hearings on sexual misconduct is to uplift the stories of the women in a way that will allow them to live healthier lives going forward. She stated that one of the focus areas include access to mental health services. Commissioner Jackson recommended that the POC research the opportunities for the county to establish a victim/survivor fund so that they can access quality mental health services to support their emotional well-being.

Commissioner Jackson proposed a motion, seconded by Commissioner Garcia-Leys, to have the POC staff research and report back on existing models of victim assistance funds for mental health services that highlight examples of successful funds, best practice strategies, and the challenges associated with an initiative like this by our next meeting. Commissioner Canales recommended that a comprehensive list of resources be composed as an immediate resource to refer survivors to existing community-based organizations (CBOs).

Jakai, Ms. Crayon, and an anonymous public commenter addressed the POC.

On motion of Commissioner Jackson, seconded by Commissioner Garcia-Leys, unanimously carried (Commissioners Dupuy, Lewis, and Nong being absent), the POC agreed to have the POC staff research and report back on existing models of victim assistance funds for mental health services:

Ayes:	6 –	Commissioner Sean Garcia-Leys, Commissioner Milinda Kakani, Commissioner Donald D. Meredith, Secretary Dolores Canales, Vice Chair Esché L. Jackson, and Chair Franky Carrillo
Absent:	3 –	Commissioner Danielle M. Dupuy, Commissioner Samuel Lewis, and Commissioner Dominique Nong

Commissioner Jackson shared her sentiments about the Probation Department using alternative methods (other than OC Spray) to address disturbances since the POC has recognized a pattern of disproportionate use of OC Spray on youth who have been identified as especially vulnerable in detention settings, including girls and youth with developmental disabilities.

Commissioner Jackson proposed a motion, seconded by Commissioner Garcia-Leys, to recommend that the Board calls for a pilot phase out of the use of OC Spray in units designated for girls and youth with developmental disabilities.

In response to Commissioner Meredith's inquiry, Ms. Julien confirmed that the Probation Department is providing regular data on OC Spray usage to the POC and the frequency on that day in the units. She added that the POC can extrapolate information such as units where disabled youth and girls are housed from that report, but additional individualized information is not included on that report.

Commissioner Garcia-Leys requested more time to research this request including identifying the differences from the existing OC Spray phase out plan, the purpose of the request (to replace existing phase out plan or supplement it), role of labor negotiations on this issue, and its overlap with the DJJ Settlement.

Commissioner Jackson recommended that starting with a smaller group of youth while actively phasing out OC Spray deployments is more feasible.

Commissioner Meredith recommended that the POC request the Probation Department to extrapolate that data for a certain period or 30, 60, or 90 days. He recommended targeting those units that were mentioned in the OC Spray Deployment Summary report as a starting point.

Chair Carrillo expressed concerns with focusing on a specific population and protecting the privacy of youth in terms of identifying information.

Commissioner Garcia-Leys encouraged the POC to identify things that can be extracted and analyzed internally by focusing on those specific units of concern where OC Spray has already been identified as disproportionately deployed.

Commissioner Garcia-Leys proposed a motion, seconded by Commissioner Canales, to table discussion and voting of the motion requesting individualized identifying information on girls and developmentally disabled youth until the next meeting.

On motion by Garcia-Leys, seconded by Commissioner Canales, unanimously carried (Commissioners Dupuy, Lewis, and Nong being absent), the POC agreed to table discussion and voting on the proposed motion until the next meeting:

Ayes:	6 –	Commissioner Sean Garcia-Leys, Commissioner Milinda Kakani, Commissioner Donald D. Meredith, Secretary Dolores Canales, Vice Chair Esché L. Jackson, and Chair Franky Carrillo
Absent:	3 –	Commissioner Danielle M. Dupuy, Commissioner Samuel Lewis, and Commissioner Dominique Nong

Ms. Julien explained that the POC would like more information about the specific cases with respect to some of these units. She added that collaboration with County Counsel and the Probation Department around confidentiality will be addressed if staff will conduct that research and gather that information.

Attachments: [POC's OC Spray Report Update](#)
[OC Spray Deployment Reports](#)
[Population Statistics](#)
[2022 Facility Inspection Report – Camps Rockey, Paige, Afflerbaugh](#)
Public Comment/Correspondence

IV. MISCELLANEOUS

MATTERS NOT POSTED

9. Matters not posted on the agenda, to be discussed and (if requested), placed on the agenda for action at a future meeting of the authority, of matters requiring immediate action because of an emergency situation or where the need to take action arose subsequent to the posting of the agenda.

There were no matters to be placed on a future agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENT

10. Opportunity for members of the public to address the Los Angeles Probation Oversight Commission (POC) on items of interest that are within the subject matter jurisdiction of the POC.

You may submit public comment by e-mail to info@poc.lacounty.gov.

Written public comment or documentation must be submitted no later than 5:00 p.m. one business day before the scheduled meeting to be included on the agenda. Please include the Agenda Item(s) and meeting date in your correspondence. Correspondence received by 5:00 p.m. the same day of the meeting shall become part of the official record.

Talibah Coffee, Krista Newble, and Nadine addressed the POC.

Attachments: [Public Comment/Correspondence](#)

V. ADJOURNMENT

11. Adjournment for the regular meeting of December 8, 2022.

Chair Carrillo adjourned the meeting at 3:34 p.m.